

819 Harmony Lane
Mandeville, LA 70471

January 21, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

As a supporter and avid user of Microsoft products, I would like to see this antitrust case resolved as soon as possible. I feel that the settlement reached between your office and Microsoft was fair and reasonable, and that it was extensive enough to correct not only the current problems, but future problems as well. No more action is necessary at the federal level, and would only interrupt the ongoing negotiations between Microsoft and the remaining nine states.

Microsoft has agreed to change the way it develops, licenses, and markets its products, and has granted broad new rights to software engineers and computer makers. Under the terms of the settlement, they can configure Windows so as to promote non-Microsoft programs that directly compete with the programs already included within Windows. Also, Microsoft will document, for use by its competitors, various interfaces in its Windows operating system.

I fear that the states that would continue with litigation are more concerned with return on investment than with consumer protection. I believe that if this case is judged by its merits, then it is easy to see that the problems that brought the lawsuits have been addressed. A technical oversight committee will ensure that Microsoft complies with the terms of the settlement, and the competition will be allowed to sue Microsoft if they feel that they have been treated unfairly. These provisions should avoid future wasting of federal funds, and should keep the complaints sincere. Just as Microsoft is being kept in check, the companies that wish to take Microsoft's market share should be carefully watched. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Daniel Dryer

